

ABSTRACT

5                      Electronic Message Routing

10                      An electronic message processing system in which routing  
                         tags are used to determine how electronic messages are  
                         routed, distributed, or otherwise processed by the system.  
15                      The association of a routing tag with an electronic  
                         message indicates to the system that the tagged electronic  
                         message does not need to undergo classification in order  
                         to determine how to process the message. In particular,  
                         routing tags are associated with electronic messages which  
20                      have already been classified and which are subsequently  
                         sent out of the system to return at a later time. The  
                         routing tag prevents the message from having to be re-  
                         classified upon its return to the system. Reducing the  
                         number of messages that are classified, or re-classified,  
                         is advantageous since the classification process, which  
                         typically involves text analysis, is a time consuming  
                         process.